

## The Spirit of Shakespeare Inspires His Native Town

Special Correspondence of The Star.  
STRATFORD-ON-AVON, March 30, 1916.

LIKE to think that the spirit of Shakespeare still lives in his native town, I believe it does. The people here are brought up to feel that their duty is to give to their country, not merely to get what they can out of it, and they have shown the effect of this upbringing ever since the war began.

The speaker was the mayor of this town, the world-famous Warwickshire village that produced William Shakespeare. Stratford's chief magistrate is A. E. Flower, one of the town's most substantial citizens and scion of a family whose members have been among the most generous votaries at the shrine of the bard. He referred, with true civic pride, to the part which Stratford is taking in the war in telling the writer about the plans which Shakespeare's town is making for the celebration of the approaching tercentenary of the poet's birth, which falls on the 23d day of April.

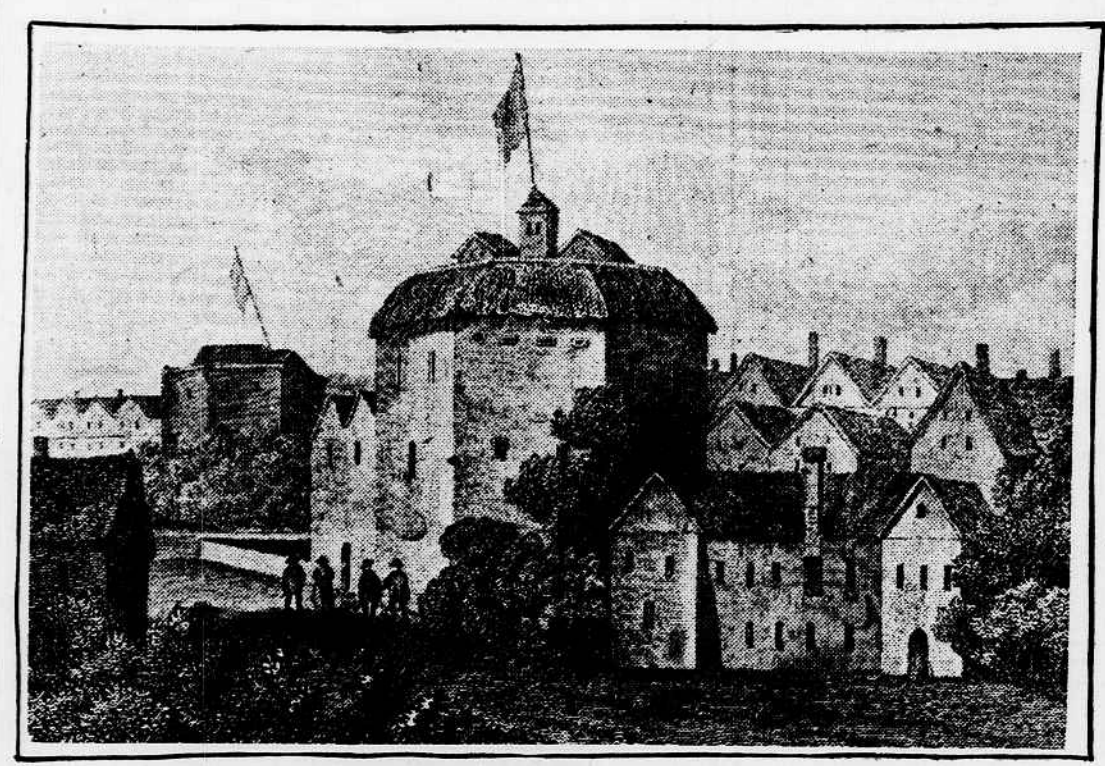
Those plans prove to be a little uncertain. The national arrangements for celebrating the tercentenary as fittingly as war conditions permit are practically complete, though Britain is obliged to leave to her eldest daughter, America, a true national commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of her greatest poet, but just what Stratford itself will be able to do depends in detail, it seems, upon political and other developments in the next few weeks.

Had it not been for the war it is safe to say that Stratford next month would have been the scene of one of the most remarkable series of commemorative ceremonies ever held in this country. Every one of the nations of the world already has paid homage to Shakespeare by presenting its flag to Stratford to be unfurled in connection with the annual celebration of the poet's birthday anniversary, and every one of them certainly would have been represented at what was intended to be the greatest festival ever attempted in his honor. "Even the Kaiser's players probably would have been among the actors appearing at the Memorial Theater," commented the mayor, somewhat grimly.

For several years preparations for celebrating the Shakespeare tercentenary have been going on here. The writer was shown one of the results yesterday at New Place, the museum which now stands at the site of the foundations of the house in which the bard died. This consists of a beautiful collection of heraldic "surcoats" and banners made entirely by women in the district during the past few years. Enfolded in silk on rich cloth, they represent the arms of every one of the knights mentioned in Shakespeare's plays—thirty-two in all, beginning with Sir George of Enzland and ending with Eleanor Duchess of Somerset, the heiress of Richard Earl of Warwick, and were to have been worn and carried in the great pageant which was to have been a feature of the tercentenary festivities. Everything of an ambitious character in this connection has, of course, been indefinitely postponed, and at present it is even uncertain what will be the program at the fortnight of Shakespearean performances that will be given at the famous Memorial Theater.

"The war has made hay of all our plans," said the mayor of Stratford. "The last straw being the calling up of the first groups of married men on April 17, exactly three months earlier than had been expected. We have arranged with F. R. Benson for a cycle of Shakespearean performances, beginning on April 25, and the ideal program for this commemoration would have been a series of the historical plays, done in chronological order. But these historical plays to have their proper effect should be acted largely by young men, and not only are young men scarce now, but no one likes to see them doing anything else than

STRATFORD-ON-AVON Is Busy Preparing to Celebrate the Tercentenary of the Birth of Its Immortal Son—Town Has Beaten Every Other Place in Britain, in Proportion to Size, in the Number of Men It Has Given to the Colors—Mayor of Stratford Says the Bard's Spirit Still Dwells Beside the Avon—Plans for the Celebration—Dearth of American Visitors Since War Began.



THE FAMOUS GLOBE THEATRE, IN THE OLD LONDON DISTRICT OF SOUTHWARK. IT WAS OWNED BY SHAKESPEARE, AND HIS PLAYS WERE FIRST PRODUCED THERE.

ter of all is the Union Jack, presented to the town by King George, and at 10 o'clock in the morning, at a signal blast from a bugle, Britain's flag is hoisted and then, at another, each ambassador unfurls his flag, and a fine and inspiring sight this has been—the whole world paying homage to Shakespeare. But this year we don't know what flags to put up and there is the chance, too, that some of them, if we did put them up, might be torn down. The whole thing depends upon the foreign office, which, I fancy, is not too keen on it. And that's our present situation so far as the tercentenary celebration is concerned."

On every side in this classic town are material proofs of the love of America for Shakespeare and his native place. In the market place is the beautiful memorial fountain that was given to Stratford by George W. Childs of Philadelphia in the year of Queen Victoria's jubilee, and unveiled by Sir Henry Irving. In Shakespeare's church are the two fine "American windows," the one purchased with £250 subscribed by American visitors and representing, with Bible characters, the "seven ages of man," from "As You Like It," and the other, known as the "south window," bought with other contributions from pilgrims from the United States. And then there is Harvard House, the famous gift of Edward Morris of Chicago to the offices of the Shakespeare trust, next door to the birthplace in Henley street, that were made possible

England, "what we have lost on the visit, several years after his first. It was quite hidden under later and less distinguished names."

Does Stratford miss the American visitors that, especially in this second year of the world war, have been practically non-existent? Current reports to the effect that the town is going broke as a result of the failure of the annual crop of American tourists prove to be, like the first report of Mark Twain's death, according to that writer, "greatly exaggerated." Everybody, from the mayor down, with whom the writer talked, agreed that Stratford has been hit, and hit hard, by the practical loss of American patrons—the hotel and boarding house keepers, and the sellers of souvenirs, post cards and the like, feel it most among the tradesmen—but nobody has been admitted into the almshouses that yet declared him or herself a bankrupt as a result, nor has anybody fresh as just next door to the historic grammar school where the bard learned his three R's. For it seems there have been compensations.

"What has happened is this," said a tradesman in Bridge street, who deals largely in photographic films, post cards, and other tourist "necessities." "The American custom has been replaced, to quite a large extent, by Brits whom the war has prevented from going to their usual holiday resorts. Because of the German aircraft and submarines, thousands of people have been afraid to go to the seaside and have come here instead. Thousands of people, too, in the surrounding district, which embraces Birmingham and other large places, are making munitions and, therefore, unable to go far afield for holidays, and many of them have also come here. We had a good year last year, much better than the year before. I myself sold half again as many films, though smaller ones, for most of the Americans, we find, now use the telescopic camera. So you see that, as the saying goes in

States \$314. Germany contributed 351 and France 118. The smallest number of visitors came from the Cape Verde Islands, which registered two. Even the Sandwich Islands, that, with seven representatives, while the Philippines sent five and the Fiji one less. The number of American visitors in one year has been as high as 14,230 (that was in 1911, the year of the last Passion Play at Oberammergau), while in 1913—total was 9,059. This year the total of your countrymen will not aggregate even 1,000."

While everybody in Stratford is intensely proud of the town's part in the war, proud that the cradle of Shakespeare has done better, in relation to its sending men to the colors than any other place in all Britain. From all conditions of the town folk came over 1,500 recruits out of a population of 9,000, and this even before Lord Derby's scheme came into effect. Most of the men, it seems, have thrown in their lot as is natural, with the local Warwickshire regiment and Warwickshire yeomanry, but the town is also represented in many other famous regiments, as well as in the units of the fighting fleet.

"The town has done exceptionally well in the matter of contributing to the various national funds, and in all kinds of war-work," observed the mayor. "We sent quite a healthy contribution to the Prince of Wales fund, we raised £1,500 on Russian Flag day, and we are also maintaining between sixty and seventy Belgians. You may say that everybody is helping. One of the most notable acts has been that of the Rev. and the Hon. Mrs. Frank Hodgson—the latter is a sister of Lord Walsingham. They have turned their beautiful home at Clifton, a few miles away, into a war hospital with 100 beds, and we also have a V. A. D. hospital with thirty beds, and a convalescent home for soldiers, and a convalescent home in the general hospital. Every now and then they send a special Red Cross train down here, and it usually brings close on 150 cases. So I do feel that in the main we have proved worthy of our great heritage, and that there is evidence on every side in this war-time that the spirit of Shakespeare still inspires his native place."

In Stratford the world's conflict is omnipresent, as it is, increasingly, everywhere else in these islands. The writer traveled down to Shakespeare's town with a group of young officers who, when they got off at Leamington, proved to belong to the East Surrey Regiment, along a line that appeared to be run by businesslike girls in neat blue uniforms and men wearing Derby armlets. On every dead wall in Stratford is the red arrow that indicates the way "To the Recruiting Office," in the porch of Shakespeare's church is a notice to "aliens of German nationality to register themselves at a police station," and in the shop windows are warnings to the public in connection with possible air raids.

Thus far the "Zepps" have not visited Stratford. The nearest they have come is somewhere not a hundred miles away. The Germans, you may remember, have indignantly denied any intention of bombing the birthplace of the great poet, whom they now claim as a Teutonic possession. But in Stratford another explanation for the town's immunity is jokingly given. The citizens affirm that they have thus far been let alone, not through German reverence for Shakespeare, but because the Kaiser would be angry if, by any chance, a bomb should happen to fall on the residence of the gifted author, who wrote of "The Sorrows of Satan."

For the national celebration of the tercentenary the plans are practically complete. They have been mapped out by a committee of which Lord Plymouth is chairman, Sir Charles Wakefield, the lord mayor of London, treasurer, and I. Gollanz, the Shakespeare scholar, secretary. On Shakespeare Sunday, April 30, the dean and chapter of Westminster Abbey have arranged for a special commemoration of the bard in the abbey, and special sermons will be preached in the afternoon and evening.

will be held at the Mansion House, at which, it is hoped, the prime minister will speak.

Meanwhile a committee of actors, presided over by Sir George Alexander, has made itself responsible for a special performance of one of Shakespeare's plays, which will take place at His Majesty's Theatre, London, on Tuesday, May 2, and will be under royal patronage. The play selected is "Julius Caesar," and the allotment of the roles therein has led to considerable heartburning among the leading lights of the theatrical profession, but it has now been settled that F. R. Benson will play "the mighty Julius"; Oscar Asche, Brutus, and Henry Ainley, Marc Antony.

Wednesday, May 3, corresponding in new style to April 23, old style, will be observed as "Shakespeare day," and it is proposed that schools and training colleges throughout the country should make some arrangements for enabling young people to take part in the commemoration. The annual Shakespeare lecture, founded by the British Academy, will be delivered on May 3 by Dr. J. W. Mackail. Shakespeare's town will be visited on Friday, May 5, when the "all-star" performance at the Memorial Theater will be given.

The latest proposal, which emanates from the British Empire Shakespeare Society, is that every man, woman and child in the empire should be asked to wear from April 23 to May 3 a medalion of the bard. The medalions, at a price within the reach of the poorest, will soon be on sale wherever the British flag flies. The proceeds of the sale of medalions and of the Shakespeare festivals and performances will be divided equally between the British Red Cross Society, the National Committee for Relief in Belgium and the League of Mercy.

(Copyright, 1916, by Curtis Brown.)

Write for "SPRING STYLE BOOK"—if you live out of town—"WE PAY THE PARCEL POST."

### Starting Two Weeks of Record-Making Easter Shoe-Selling at "HAHN'S"

With This Wonderful Offering of the Very Newest \$8, \$9 and \$10 Spring and Summer Boots at.....\$6

THINK of it! All those amazing High-Art creations that have made this such a marvelous season in the shoe business—offered AT ONLY \$6 THE PAIR. The fashionable high-cut laced and button boots made of

- |                |              |               |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Silver Gray,   | Champagne,   | Bisquit,      |
| Dawn Gray,     | Ivory Kid,   | Java Brown,   |
| Twilight Gray, | White Kid,   | Havana Brown, |
| Dark Gray,     | Patent Colt, | Tan Calf.     |

In solid colors—or with white kid tops.

Why, these same boots are being offered at the most "exclusive" shoe shops in all the leading cities at \$8, \$9, \$10 and higher!

And that's why we make this offer—simply because we want to increase our clientele among women who are accustomed to buying the better grade shoes.

### Easter Style Secrets Revealed in "VENUS" Low Shoes

JUST as we set the pace in the new high shoes this spring; so we are now prepared to lead the way with the newest fashions in "VENUS" low shoes.

A peep in our new "VENUS" windows—will be like a glimpse of a garden of rare spring flowers. There never were such beautiful low shoes! And you may have them in all the new colors—as well as in black or patent leather.

\$3.50, \$4, \$5 & \$6



Just a Few Days More of This Busy Sale of Men's \$5, \$6 and \$7

### "FLORSHEIM" Sample Shoes at.....\$3.65

The "SPRING SAMPLES" of the Florsheim Shoe Co.—in high and low cuts—SIZES 6½, 7 AND 7½ B ONLY.

And, for the man who requires other sizes, a dozen crisp new styles of other standard \$4 and \$5 makes of high and low shoes—in all leathers and all sizes.

A Real "Bargain" of the Better Sort, Right at the Outset of the Season!



### News in a Nutshell of Children's New Spring Shoes.

New Ankle and Instep Strap Pumps for misses and children. Sizes 8½ to 11. \$1.50 to \$2.50; 11½ to 2. \$1.75 to \$3.00; 2½ to 7. \$2.50 to \$4.00.

New Easter White Boots—of snow-white nubuck. Sizes 8½ to 11. \$2 to \$3; 11½ to 2. \$2.50 to \$3.50; 2½ to 7. \$3 to \$5.

New Boots, Roman Sandals and Ankle Ties for baby; in white, black, tan, patent and white patent, with white or champagne top—\$1 to \$2.

"Trot-Moe" Shoes and Oxfords for girls and boys; black, tan or white—\$2.75 to \$3.75.

### Spring Fashion News From Hahn's "Stocking" Shop.

Latest Novelties in Women's Fine Silk Stockings in solid colors or with clocks, stripes, Richelleu ribs, checks or contrasting boot effects: \$1.00 \$1.25 and \$1.50 values. Special at.....\$1.00

Guaranteed Silk Hosiery in 75c, 85c, \$1 & \$1.25

A Special in Women's \$1 Silk—black or 75c white with "clocks" or polka dots, at.....\$1.25

"Lady Luxury," our great leader—a 75c Full-fashioned Silk Stocking, in all colors. Special at 3 pairs, \$1.55; a pair.....\$55c

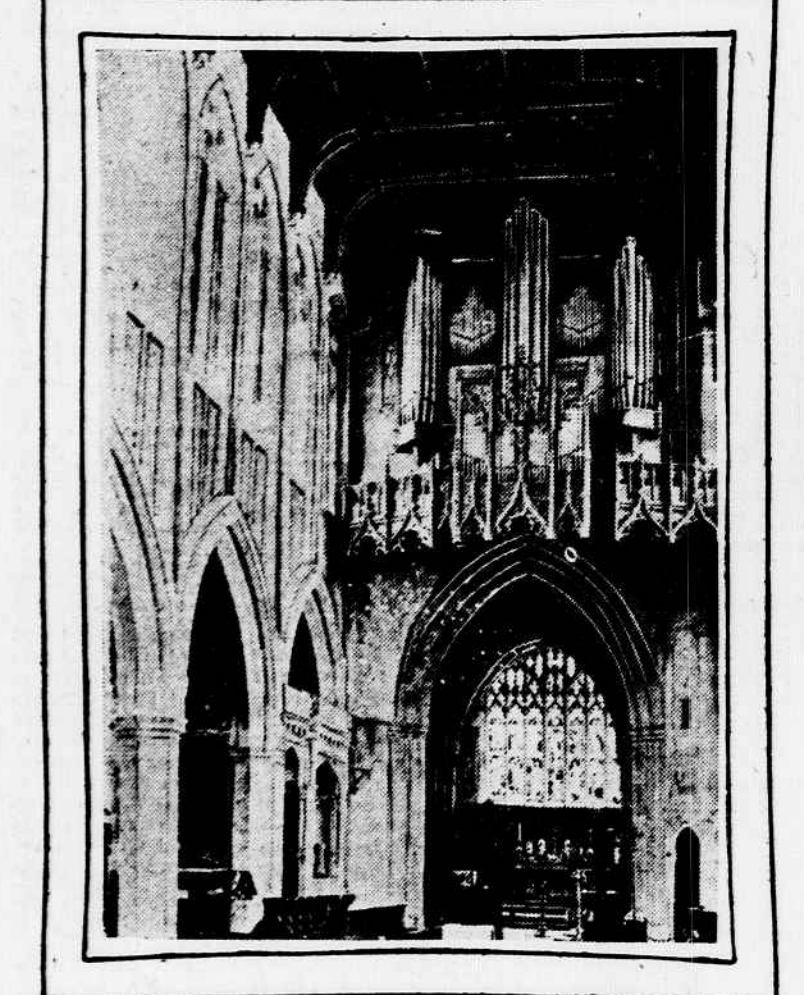
## Hahn's

3 RELIABLE SHOE HOUSES

COR. 7th and K  
1914-16 PA. AVE.  
233 PA. AVE. S.E.

Get Your Feet in Good Shape

Before hot weather comes. Consult the specialists in our "FOOT COMFORT" DEPARTMENT this week. Their advice is FREE!



WHERE SHAKESPEARE IS BURIED. The grave is just in front of the altar in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford.

shouldering a rifle. Moreover, now that the call to the married men has come, no one knows even what actors Benson will be able to bring with him. On May 5—the last day but one of the festival—we are to have an "all-star" performance, at which H. R. Irving, Sir George Alexander, Oscar Asche and others will appear in scenes from the plays. To this the king has given his patronage, but exactly what form this will take is also among the uncertainties. The king and queen are to attend the performance of Shakespeare which will be given in London, but Sir Francis Ponsonby tells me that it is next to impossible to hope that they can come here also.

"I am hoping, however," the mayor went on, "that his majesty will send us some flowers to be placed on Shakespeare's grave, as is always done on his birthday. We are celebrating here the birthday will be kept May 3, because of the fact that the birthday and Easter Sunday fall on the same date. Here, however, we shall hold our birthday ceremony at Holy Trinity, where

All Garments Designed by Our Famous Cutter, Mr. E. F. Mudd (formerly of Keen's).

Here are the latest fabrics.

Scotch Checks, Blue Serges, Brecon Cheviots, New Overblades.

## You'll Be "Dressed Up" in a Stein Tailored Easter Suit

To Measure at

# \$16

Designed by Our Famous Cutter, Mr. E. F. Mudd

Mr. Mudd is the cutter that puts the pep into young men's clothes. He'll design you a garment that'll set all your friends to talking.

Tailored by Our Clever Union Tailors

You never saw such magnificent tailoring in a suit to order at \$16 before. You never saw such fabrics—such style—such perfect fitting garments—in your life.

Other Stylish Suits to Measure up to \$35

Easter's Only Two Weeks Away—Why Not Leave Your Order Monday

All our garments are made by union tailors, right here in our own modern, well lighted and well ventilated workrooms, under the most perfect sanitary conditions.

## M. Stein & Co.,

Quality Tailors

Cor. 8th & F Sts.